

Research Activity Panel: Minutes

Pacific Fisheries Environmental Group (NMFS)
1352 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove
Friday October 11, 1996
09:00 - 12:00

Members present:

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs- Chair
Rick Starr, U.C. Sea Grant- Vice Chair
Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS- RAP Coordinator
George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Jane Caffrey, ESNERR and ESF
Mike Field for Steve Eittreim, USGS
Randy Kochevar, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/ Monterey
Caroline Pomeroy, UCSC/CSUMB
Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS
Leslie Rosenfeld, Naval Postgraduate School
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Mar. Pollution Studies Lab
Les Strnad, CA Coastal Commission

Members not able to attend:

Giacomo Bernardi, UCSC
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Rikk Kvitek, CSUMB
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Dennis Powers/Jennifer Nielsen, Hopkins Marine Station
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS@CSUMB
Geoff Wheat, NOAA/NURP
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation

Guests:

Jane Delay, MBNMS
Laure Katz, UCSC
Richard Parrish, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG

CONSENT ITEMS:

Modifications to the agenda (G. Cailliet)

◆ No modifications

Approval of September 1996 minutes (G. Cailliet)

◆ Minutes approved as presented

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Overview of the Pacific Fisheries Environmental Group (G. Boehlert)

◆ PFEG was formed in 1969 to provide a means for understanding fishery related effects of natural environmental variability.

◆ PFEG currently supplies environmental data, various models, field research results, and ocean/climate process information to fishery scientists and managers around the world.

Fisheries and climate variability in the North Pacific (R. Parrish)

◆ Analyses and extracts from the COADS dataset, a source of extensive surface environmental data (temperature, winds, atmospheric pressure) throughout the Pacific Ocean, indicate that there are decadal changes in surface environmental conditions and flow fields.

◆ These environmental shifts have variable effects on fish populations, depending on the species of interest.

◆ The environmental shifts have significant implications to fishery models, most of which assume a relatively constant environment and cannot accommodate the changes noted on such large time and space scales.

BREAK

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Determining the upper boundaries of tidal influence (A. DeVogelaere)

◆ The RAP was asked to give input on the topic of the shoreside boundary of the MBNMS. The RAP discussed many potential ways to approach this problem, and noted that it could be a difficult task. It was decided to defer discussion of the issue until a specific, written outline of the problem was forwarded to the RAP by the SAC or MBNMS management.

Announcing new Assistant Professor positions at UCSC (A. DeVogelaere)

◆ Three new faculty positions are open at UCSC: Plant/Algal Ecologist, Marine Ecologist, Environmental Toxicologist. The closing date for the positions is December 13, 1996. See www.biology.ucsc.edu for more information.

SIVA center and potential links to MBNMS data management (R. Starr)

◆ CSUMB is developing a center for Spatial Information Visualization and Analysis (SIVA). Jack Paris, Rikk Kvitek and Rick Starr are heading up the effort.

◆ After much discussion, the RAP decided to suggest to SRD, MBNMS management, and the SAC that SRD support the SIVA Center as one possible source of useful computer hardware and expertise to help manage MBNMS related data bases and GIS efforts.

Membership Updates (G. Cailliet)

◆ Gary Sharp, formerly the RAP representative for CIRIOS, was voted to the Special Advisor membership status on the RAP. The Special Advisor role is for members who provide critical insight, without representing a particular institution or "At Large" subject matter.

List of pending projects to present to SRD Chief during her October visit to MBNMS (A. De Vogelaere)

◆ The RAP developed the following list of research considerations for presentation to SRD Chief Stephanie Thorton during her visit in late October:

1. OCRM funds for GIS and database management, working with the SIVA center. These funds were to have been transferred to MBNMS from the Ocean Search project.
2. Progress is needed on Institutional Permits.
3. The RAP is always willing to help with management issues, but needs well articulated questions, not generalities about issues.
4. The RAP would hope that SRD could respond more quickly to issues such as shark chumming and jade collecting with solutions, especially those for which scientific evaluations have been presented. One suggestion is to have exchange between Headquarters and MBNMS on 2-3 week rotations to solve local problems.

Status of the proposed Underwater Park/Comments on the proposal (R. Starr)

◆ The RAP discussed the Center for Marine Conservation paper on the proposed park, and the decisions recently made by the combined Monterey and Pacific Grove Parks and Recreation Departments.

◆ Greg Cailliet (with review by Rick Starr and Andrew De Vogelaere) was elected to formalize the position and key issues of concern of the RAP regarding the park.

◆ Greg Cailliet would submit this letter to the SAC via both Chair Karen Strasser Kauffman and Manager Terry Jackson. It was decided that the RAP should not take a formal position on the park, but should work through the SAC on the issue. However, individual RAP members were encouraged to participate in the designation process as they felt was appropriate.

SHORT INFORMATION ITEMS

Verbal items:

Update on recent SAC meetings (G. Cailliet)

◆ See the SAC minutes, available at <http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov>

Update on recent Manager and Physical Scientist position announcements (G. Cailliet)

◆ The RAP expressed interest in having input on the Physical Scientist and Manager positions for the MBNMS. Terry Jackson had already asked Greg Cailliet to review the applications for the former, while Karen Strasser Kauffman (and at least two others, including George Boehlert for NOAA/NMFS) was asked to be involved in the early review of applications for the latter.

Big Creek Marine Ecological Reserve: RAC and proposal reviews (A. De Vogelaere)

◆ Pre-proposals reviews for this program should be complete by mid-November.

New fishery in the Monterey Bay Canyon; fishing and science moorings (G. Cailliet)

◆ Two deep-water trawling fisheries over heterogeneous bottom now occur: on relatively shallow white croaker and relatively deep grenadier or rattail fisheries. However, neither appears of concern, except to scientistist who have moorings in areas where trawling occurs.

◆ A relatively new fishery, call Portuguese Pole Fishing, which takes relatively small and shallow fishes, is a cause for concern. It was noted that CDFG is presently investigating this fishery and will report back to the RAP via member Deborah Johnston. Annual RAP BBQ (A. De Vogelaere)

◆ The annual BBQ will be held after the November RAP meeting at Granite Canyon Laboratory.

Written items

(no discussion unless there are questions):

NMS Research Reports, see handout (A. De Vogelaere/J. Roletto)

see handout

Permit Report (S. Kathey)

See handout.

Old Business

(optional updates):

Effects of artificial lights on the deep sea organisms (R. Kochevar)

◆ A draft document is complete, the RAP will soon receive a copy of the report for review